(b) if so, what items were imported and from which country these were imported;

(c) the details of the total money spent on each item; and

(d) whether any of these items is manufactured in our country with less price, but still Government imported from other country, if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. The Government has imported defence items including raw materials for its use during the last three years also.

These items are sourced from various countries including Russia, the USA, the UK, France, Israel, Germany, Australia, Italy, Ukraine, etc. Divulging the details relating to these items on the floor of the House would not be in the interests of national security. The expenditure incurred on import of defence items during 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06 is as under:

(Rs. in crore)

Year	Revenue	Capital	Total
2003-04	4221.10	8431.84	12652.94
2004-05	3524.29	15740.95	19265.24
2005-06	4211.47	7890.02	12101.49

The question of importing required defence items available indigenously with less price does not arise.

Upgradation of roads in Uttarakhand by BRO

3708. SHRI TARLOCHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Defence Border Road Wing of the Ministry has taken decision to upgrade the National Highway in Uttarakhand from Rishikesh to Badrinath and Rishikesh to Gobind Ghat;

(b) how many accidents have taken place on these two roads during the last three years; and

(c) what is the progress of developing the bridle path from Gobind Dham to Hemkunt Shrine in Uttarakhand?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) Upgradation of National Highway-58 from Rishikesh to Badrinath to double lane specification by Border Roads Organization (BRO) is already in progress. The road portion from Rishikesh to Gobind Ghat is a part of above National Highway.

(b) In last three years 184 accidents have been reported on the above National Highway.

(c) This path from Gobind Dham to Hemkunt Shrine is with the State Government.

Withdrawal of army from J and K

†3709. SHRI AJAY MAROO:
SHRI T.S. BAJWA:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to set up a high level Committee for suggesting measures for phased withdrawal of army from Jammu & Kashmir;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the policy of Government in this regard;

(d) whether Government have started process of withdrawing army from the State; and

(e) if so, the number of army men being withdrawn in the first phase?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) to (e) It has been decided by the Government to set up an Expert Panel to determine whether there is a need to re-locate and reconfigure the existing Security Forces, keeping in mind the security needs of the State. However, the

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.